

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

---

# ANNUAL REPORTS

of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
and  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
for the year  
1966

**Medical Officer of Health :**

R. SCHOFIELD, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

**Public Health Inspectors :**

Mr. FRANK BURROWS, Cert. Royal Society of Health  
R.S.H., Cert. Meat and other Foods.

Mr. DEREK M. BOLD, Cert. Royal Society of Health  
R.S.H. Smoke Inspectors Diploma.  
R.S.H. Cert. Meat and other Foods.

Mr. RONALD DUNNE, R.S.H. Diploma of Public Health Inspectors  
(Appointed 31st October, 1966.)

**Food Inspectors :**

Public Health Inspectors as above.

**Superintendent of Cleansing Department :**

Mr. FRANK BURROWS

**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF  
ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD**

---

# **ANNUAL REPORTS**

**of the**

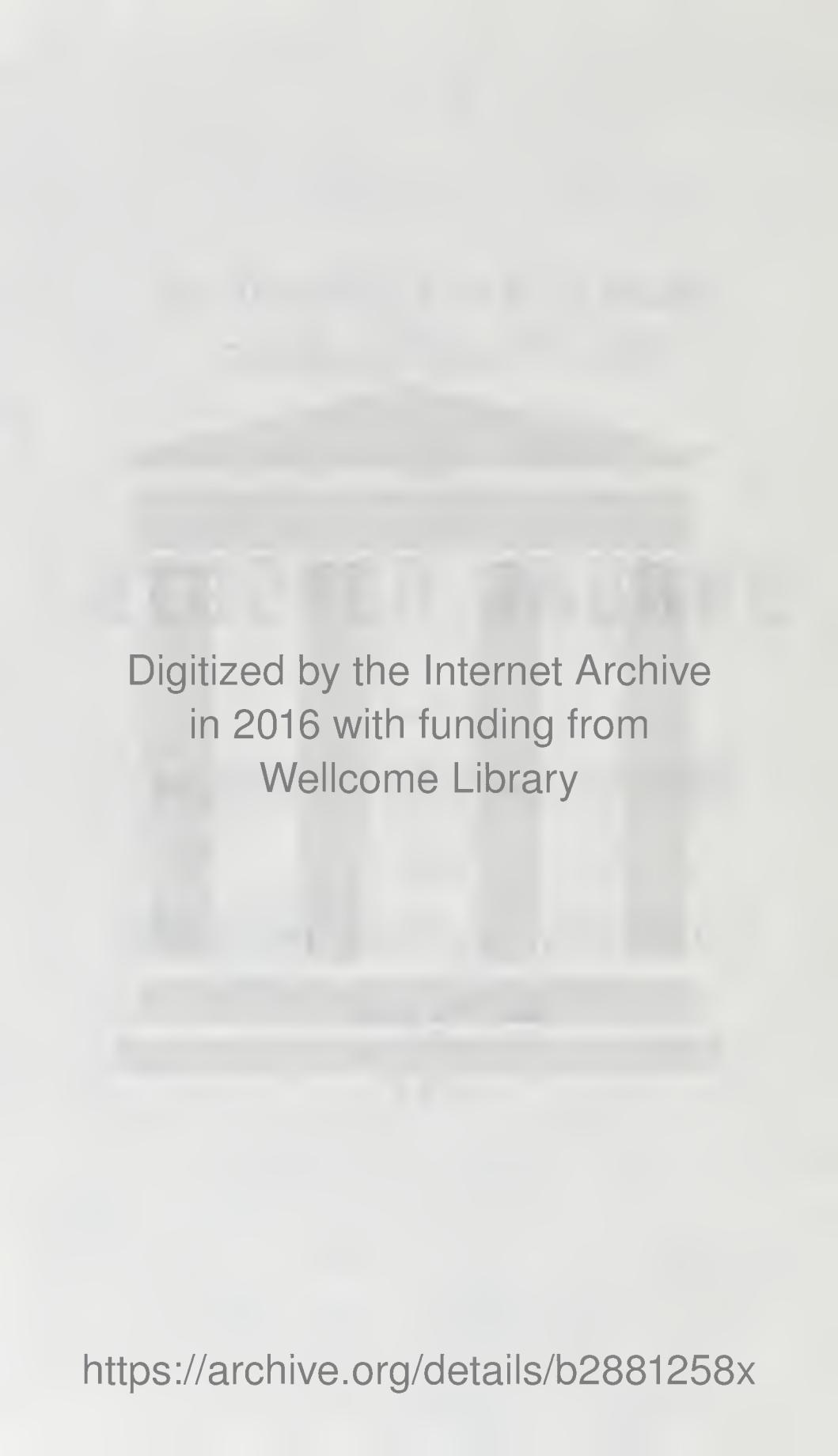
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**and**

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

**for the year**

**1966**

A faint, grayscale background image of a classical building, possibly a temple or a large library, featuring a series of columns and a prominent pediment at the top. The building is oriented horizontally across the center of the frame.

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2016 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2881258x>

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

## 1966

---

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Ashton-in-Makerfield.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration the ninety-first Annual Report of the health and sanitary circumstances of your Urban District for the year 1966 and as in previous years it has been compiled in the manner indicated by the Ministry of Health.

### Introduction

The district is bounded by the Urban Districts of Abram, Billinge, Golborne and Haydock and the County Boroughs of Wigan and St. Helens.

Geologically the area is of coal and red sandstone and is approximately 6,265 acres.

### Social Conditions

The population at the 1961 census was 19,260 and is now 22,300 (mid 1966). The density of population being slightly more than 3 per acre. Coal mining has practically ceased but some light industry has moved into the district. Agriculture, textile weaving, rayon and iron and steel manufacture give employment to many of the population, but there is still a need for additional industry to be introduced into the area.

The rateable value of property in the Urban District is £596,900 and a penny Rate yields £2,316.

The District is part of No. 8 Division of the Lancashire County Council who organise Child Welfare, Ante Natal and School Clinics.

## Health Visitor and Midwifery Services.

At the Queens Road Clinic there were 104 sessions.

The number of children born in the year of the report was 502 and these made 5,024 attendances at this clinic. The total attendances at the clinic of children between the ages of 0 - 5 years was 6,462.

The Ante Natal Clinic held 40 sessions and the average number of Women attending was 26.2. Eleven post-natal clinics were held, attended by 120 women; average number attending per session was 10.9.

More detailed and extended statistics are published in the Divisional Medical Officer's Report to the Lancashire County Council.

## Sanitary Circumstances

The Makerfield Water Board supervise the distribution of water, largely purchased from Liverpool Corporation to 8,015 houses by mains supply. The Board reported the taking of 144 water samples in the district and found them all to be bacteriologically satisfactory. No chemical reports have been received.

The Makerfield Water Board supervise the distribution of water, is 7,929. House refuse is collected in approximately 8,572 bins and disposed of by Controlled tipping.

## Vital Statistics

Estimated mid-year home population 22,300

Comparability factors : Births 0.95

Deaths 1.24

	Male	Female
Live Births		
Legitimate .....	251	251
Illegitimate .....	10	8
Total .....	261	259
Still Births		
Legitimate .....	2	5
Illegitimate .....	Nil	Nil
Total .....	2	5

Deaths—infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate .....	7	6
Illegitimate .....	Nil	Nil
Total .....	7	6

Deaths — infants under four weeks of age

Legitimate .....	6	4
Illegitimate .....	Nil	Nil
Total .....	6	4

Deaths — infants under one week of age

Legitimate .....	6	4
Illegitimate .....	Nil	Nil
Total .....	6	4

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population

Total (all forms)		
Crude rate .....	12.8	
Adjusted rate .....	15.8	
Respiratory T.B. .....	0.09	
Malignant neoplasms, etc. .....	1.97	

Live Birth per 1,000 estimated population

Crude rate .....	23.3	
Adjusted rate .....	22.1	

Still births rate per 1,000 total births .....

13.3

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total

births .....	Nil	
--------------	-----	--

Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births

25

Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live

births .....	
19.2	

19.2

Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000

live births .....	
19.2	

19.2

Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total

births .....	
32.3	

Causes of Death	Sex	Total All ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS								75 and over
					1—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	
Tuberculosis, Respiratory .....	M	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, Other .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .....	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus .....	M	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	3	1
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus .....	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	3	—
	F	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	4	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .....	M	20	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	10	6
	F	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	9
Coronary Disease, Angina .....	M	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	10	11	7
	F	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	8	3	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease .....	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Other Heart Disease .....	M	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
	F	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	5	23
Other Circulatory Disease .....	M	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4
Pneumonia .....	M	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	F	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1
Bronchitis .....	M	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	9
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System .....	M	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis .....	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate .....	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Congenital Malformations .....	M	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	F	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases .....	M	13	—	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	5
	F	15	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
All other Accidents .....	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Suicide .....	M	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
<b>TOTAL all causes .....</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>—</b>
	<b>F</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>63</b>

## Infectious Disease

There was no epidemic disease during the year

Scarlet fever .....	notified	26
Whooping cough .....	notified	1
Measles .....	notified	345
Dysentery .....	notified	1
Acute pneumonia .....	notified	Nil
Tuberculosis — respiratory .....	notified	6
Tuberculosis other .....	notified	1
Food poisoning .....	notified	Nil
Meningococcal Infection .....	notified	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	notified	Nil

## Immunisations and Vaccinations

Children Protected Against:—

	Primary		Re-Inforcement	
	0-4	5-15	0-4	5-15
Diphtheria .....	422	35	128	411
Whooping Cough ...	441	10	128	28
Tetanus .....	442	32	128	387
Poliomyelitis .....	447	28	217	8
Smallpox Vaccination	Primary		Re-Vaccination	
	0-4	5-15	0-4	5-15
	274	17	—	16

I wish to thank you for the very kind interest at all times taken in the matters affecting the health and environment of the Urban District. I must also extend my thanks to Mr. F. Burrows and other members of the staff for their ready and valuable assistance during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

R. SCHOFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR, 1966

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Ashton-in-Makerfield.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ashton-in-Makerfield Urban District Council

Gentlemen,

I submit for your consideration my Annual Report dealing with the work carried out in the Public Health Department during the year 1966, together with other items which are included for interest value.

The rapid growth of the district, additional legislation and shortage of staff were responsible for certain duties being neglected, but I am pleased to state that the appointment of an Additional Public Health Inspector on the 31st October, 1966, brought the department up to full strength.

I would forecast that the backlog of work could be considerably reduced provided the present number of staff is maintained, together with an absence of new legislation.

The trend in local government, however, appears to be, that each year new legislation has to be enforced thus increasing the work of local government officers.

In the last five years the number of inhabited houses in Ashton-in-Makerfield has increased by 1,347, a 20% increase and the population has increased from 19,500 to 22,300 (Mid. 1966). These changes have brought with them additional complaints regarding refuse collection, removal of household goods, rodent and insect infestations, drainage and flooding.

The housing problem is still present and there is a continued demand for Council houses and bungalows; especially the latter. As the proportion of persons over the age of 65 years continues to rise so do the applications for bungalows. There were at least 290 legitimate bungalow applications on the Council's waiting list at the end of 1966 in addition, another aged persons home similar to "Garswood House" which accommodates 51 aged persons, would not be sufficient to meet the needs of aged persons in the area who would benefit by this type of accommodation.

## Summary of Visits and Inspections

Houses and premises visited during routine inspections and re-nuisances and complaints .....	2,450
Nuisances discovered .....	1,523
Nuisances abated .....	1,398
Re-visits re nuisances .....	1,587
Visits re infectious disease .....	32
Re-visits re infectious disease .....	15
Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale .....	156
Visits to factories .....	139
Food Factory .....	81
Visits to dairies .....	25
Visits to Shops (Shops and Public Health Acts) .....	121
Notices served (Preliminary) .....	318
Notices served (Statutory) .....	51
Legal Proceedings .....	Nil
Court Abatement Orders Made .....	Nil
Letters sent .....	974

## Description of Nuisances Dealt With

Defective and damp walls .....	176
,,    roofs .....	149
,,    eavesgutters and rain water pipes .....	175
,,    floors .....	27
,,    sinks .....	5
,,    wastepipes .....	19
,,    plasterwork .....	189
,,    windows .....	181
,,    doors and frames .....	47
,,    staircases .....	4
,,    chimneys and stacks .....	39
,,    ventilating shafts .....	4
,,    paving in yards and passages .....	19
,,    washing boilers .....	2
,,    W.C. cisterns .....	37
,,    W.C. basins .....	28
,,    W.C. supply pipes .....	56
,,    W.C. structures .....	39
Choked or defective drains and drainage systems .....	160
Water under floors .....	31
Accumulation of refuse, etc. ....	28
Foul Odours .....	22
Filthy or verminous premises .....	17
Insufficient water supplies .....	20
Insufficient lighting .....	15
Noise Nuisances .....	2
Clean Air Act Infringements .....	9
Overcrowding .....	3
Miscellaneous .....	20

## Housing and Slum Clearance Programme

During the year 38 houses were represented to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and not capable of being repaired at reasonable expense.

Twenty-five families were rehoused from houses dealt with as Individual Unfit Houses. Nine houses were demolished and five closed. The number of persons involved was eighty-one.

## Housing Statistics

1. Number of dwellings erected during the year:—	Houses	Bungalows
(i) By the local authority .....	Nil	Nil
(ii) By other local authorities .....	Nil	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons .....	180	184
2. Number of Council owned dwellings at end of the year .....	1,811	
3. Inspections of dwelling-houses during the year:—	Houses	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts). Includes Slum Clearance Survey under Ministry of Housing and Local Government Circular 2/60) .....	356	
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal made for the purpose .....	784	
(c) Number of dwelling-houses in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit .....	200	
(2) Total number of dwelling-houses existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which—		
(a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made. (At any time) .....	56	
(b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made .....	192	

4. Houses Demolished:—

In Clearance Areas

	Houses Demolished	Displaced Persons	during year Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ....	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43 (2), Housing Act, 1957 ....	—	—	—

Not in Clearance Areas

(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ....	9	59	19
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health ....	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts ....	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in unfitness Orders ....	—	—	—

5. Unfit Houses Closed:—

	Number	Displaced Persons	during year Families
(1) Under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ....	5	22	6
(2) Under Sections 17 (3), and 26, Housing Act, 1957 ....	—	—	—
(3) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957 ....	—	—	—

6. Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied:—

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority ...	41	Nil
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts (b) Sections 9 & 16, Housing Act, 1957 ....	Nil	Nil
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957 ....	Nil	Nil

7. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):—  
Position at end of year:—

(1) Retained for temporary accommodation:—

	Number of Houses	Number of Separate dwellings contained in column (1)
(a) Under Section 48 .....	—	—
(b) Under Section 17 (2) .....	—	—
(c) Under Section 46 .....	—	—
(2) Licensed for temporary occupation under Sections 34 or 53 .....	—	—

8. Purchase of Houses by Agreement:—

Number of  
houses

Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased during the year .....

9. Housing Act 1949 and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—  
Improvement grants etc:—

Action during year:—

	Private bodies or individuals	Local Authority
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority .....	1	—
(b) Approved by local authority .....	1	—
(c) Submitted by local authority to Ministry .....	—	—
(d) Finally approved by Ministry .....	—	—
(e) Work completed .....	1	—
(f) Additional separate dwellings in- cluded in (e) above .....	Nil	—
(g) Any other action under the Acts: Nil		

10. House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, Housing Acts, 1961 and 1964—Standard Grants:—

	No. of dwellings or other buildings affected
(a) Applications submitted to local authority for improvement to full standard .....	53
(b) Applications approved by local authority for improvement to reduced standard .....	1
(c) Total applications approved by local authority for improvements to—	
(a) full standard .....	56
(b) reduced standard .....	1
(d) Work completed .....	47

There was a reduction in the number of applications made for Standard Grants as compared with the previous year, and applications from landlords are still not forthcoming.

The amenities provided were:—

Fixed baths .....	47
Showers .....	Nil
Wash Hand basins .....	46
Hot Water Supply (to any fittings) .....	47
Water Closets within dwellings .....	44
Food Stores .....	47

The total amount paid in grants was £7,083 7s. 9d. an average of £150 14s. 2d. per house.

It was not possible to carry out any surveys or work in connection with compulsory improvement areas.

**Rent Act, 1957**

There were no applications for Certificates of Disrepair or any undertakings to carry out repairs during the year.

## Inspection and Supervision of Food and Food Premises

Owing to staff shortages it was not possible to devote much time to this essential duty but efforts were made to inspect all shops selling open food. Generally the standards are high but in some instances it was necessary to give severe warnings to shop assistants regarding the use of meat slicing machines which were not kept in a clean and hygienic condition.

81 Visits were paid to the food factory which was not sufficient when it is realized that this factory supplies meat and offals to numerous school kitchens, hotels and shops, but I am pleased to state that there is full co-operation by the owner. Any suggestions I have made regarding new facilities and equipment to maintain a high standard of hygiene have been complied with and the owner himself is constantly searching for equipment that will prevent any risk of contamination of foodstuff.

Type of Business	No.
General Grocers and provision dealers .....	102
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.) .....	16
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.) .....	6
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.) .....	17
Bakers and/or confectioners .....	12
Fried Fish shops .....	17
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice cream, etc. .....	34
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments .....	75
Others .....	6
Sale of Ice-Cream .....	66
Manufacturer of Cooked Meat and Sausages .....	9
Storage of Meat sold from vehicles .....	3
Storage of Fish sold from vehicles .....	4
Storage of Fruit and vegetables sold from vehicles .....	10

The following table gives the type and number of premises registered under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, Sections 115 and 116.

Sale of Ice-Cream .....	66
Manufacturer of Cooked Meat and Sausages .....	9
Storage of Meat sold from vehicles .....	3
Storage of Fish sold from vehicles .....	4
Storage of Fruit and vegetables sold from vehicles .....	10

## Food Condemned

3 tins Orange Juice	5 tins Carrots
2 tins Potatoes	4 tins Apricots
4 tins Evaporated Milk	1 tin Breakfast Grill
4 tins Sago	2 Turkeys
1 tin Steak Pudding	273½ lbs. Cooked Ham
11 tins Pears	9 tins Cream
3 tins Salmon	30 tins Peeled Tomatoes
2 tins Soup	17 tins Peas
2 tins Ox Tongue	7 tins Peaches
1 tin Apple and Blackcurrant Pudding	1 tin Prunes
2 tins Carrots and Turnips	6 tins Beans
1 tin Chicken	12 tins Rice Pudding
9 tins Pineapples	24 tins Grapefruit
8 packets Cheese	75 lbs. Chilled Beef
3 tins Luncheon Meat	650 lbs. Hind Quarter Beef
1 tin Boiled Ham	23 tins Stewed Steak
1 tin Fruit Cocktail	113 tins Blackcurrants
16 tins Oranges	1 tin Strawberries
	3 tins Fruit Salad

## Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

There are 10 dairy farms producing milk within the district in addition to 6 registered dairies.

Visits have been paid to all these premises in addition to shops from which sterilized milk is sold. The results of milk samples taken are as follows:—

Biological Test (Tuberculosis) .....	19
Negative .....	18
Positive .....	Nil
No result .....	1
Phosphatase Test .....	18
Satisfactory .....	17
Unsatisfactory .....	Nil
No Result .....	1
Methylene Blue Test .....	18
Satisfactory .....	17
Unsatisfactory .....	Nil
No result .....	1
Turbidity Test .....	8
Satisfactory .....	8
Unsatisfactory .....	Nil

The Milk (Special Designation) Specified Areas) No. 3 Order is operative in the Urban District and only designated milk may be sold in sealed bottles or containers.

## Ice Cream

There are sixty-six premises registered under Section 115 and 116 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act for the sale of ice cream.

There is one manufacturer of heat treated ice cream in the district and his premises are inspected regularly. These premises are modern and a high standard of cleanliness is maintained both in the buildings and with the fleet of vehicles that operate over a large area in Lancashire. Forty-seven samples were taken during the year, the results being as follows.

	Produced outside district	Produced within district
Provisional Grade I .....	32	13
Provisional Grade II .....	1	1
Provisional Grade III .....	Nil	Nil
Provisional Grade IV .....	Nil	Nil

## Ice Lollies

Eighteen samples were taken all being satisfactory.

## Ice Cream Lollies

Eighteen samples were taken, the results being as follows:—

Grade I .....	17
Grade II .....	1

## Licensed Premises

There are twenty-nine public houses, seven out-door licences and eighteen clubs within the urban district. The general standard is high, but in some instances a complete redesign and reconstruction of the sanitary conveniences is required to modernise the premises. The owners are fully aware of the necessity for this work to be carried out to prevent inconvenience to the customers and many interviews and discussions have taken place in connection with this matter. I hope to report next year on the progress made.

## **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

There are only two shops licensed for keeping and sale of pets. The occupiers are fully aware of the requirements of the Act and there has been no cause for complaint.

## **Petroleum (Regulations) Acts**

The total number of applications for licences for the storage of petroleum is now forty-two and the fees received amounted to £35 15s. 0d.

It is necessary to maintain a strict control when new storage tanks and pumps are installed. A 10 pounds pressure test is made over a 24 hour period and the codes of practice issued by the Home Office are enforced.

## **Refuse Collection and Disposal**

The number of dustbins to be collected continues to increase due to the erection of new dwellings and by reason of the fact that many houses are central heated there is an increase in the bulk of refuse to be removed.

Each year the type of refuse changes as more and more foodstuffs are prepacked and other household goods are wrapped in disposable containers. The time is rapidly approaching when the size of the dustbins used in the district will have to be increased to avoid double journeys from dwellings to the refuse collection vehicle.

The Council engaged the services of a firm of work study consultants, the major reason being to provide an incentive bonus to the employees. The scheme was introduced in March, 1966, but in my opinion it is more complicated than is necessary and it has caused a considerable increase in the time spent in the office in wage and bonus calculations.

The vehicles now engaged in refuse collection are as follows:—

Two 18 cubic yard capacity, dual tip rear loading Karriers.

One 7 cubic yard capacity side loading Bedford.

One 18/24 cubic yard capacity Karrier compression loader.

One 18/24 cubic yard capacity Harrison Gibson Compression loader (Second-Hand)

One converted pail van is used for salvage collection and a 600 gallon Dennis gully emptier is used for pail collection.

## Dustbin Provision Scheme

The Municipal Dustbin Scheme is operated under the provisions of Section 75/3 of the Public Health Act, 1936. 364 Bins were delivered to new dwellings whilst 402 were issued to replace defective bins at other premises.

Number of pail closets at end of 1965 (approximately)	102
Less number converted .....	8
Less number demolished .....	5
	—
Total number of pail closets at end of 1966 .....	89
Number of water closets at end of 1965 (approximately)	
including troughs and waste water .....	8,509
Number of conversions .....	8
Number of fresh water closets at new dwellings ...	364
Number of extra water closets erected .....	75
	—
	8,956
Number of water closets demolished .....	16
	—
Number of water closets at end of 1966 .....	8,940
Number of waste water closets included above .....	14
Number of moveable dustbins at end of 1965	
(approximately) .....	8,204
Number of new dwellings .....	364
Bins provided at other premises .....	18
	—
	8,586
Number of bins at properties demolished and closed	14
	—
Number of moveable ashbins at 31st December, 1966	8,572

## Salvage of Waste Paper

The amount of waste paper collected and disposed of was 249 tons 12 cwts. 2 qrs. The income from the sale amounted to £2,283 2s. 5d.

The need for a new electric baling machine of greater capacity is now a necessity and when the new premises are available in Millingford Grove one should be provided without delay.

## Trade Refuse

A charge of 6d. per bin per week is made for the collection of refuse from trade premises. The sum of £174 14s. 3d. was received for this service.

### FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1961

	Inspections	Written Notices
Number of factories on register: 136		
With Mechanical Power .....	108	129
Without Mechanical Power .....	18	20
Other Premises (Not outworkers) .....	10	10
	136	159
		Nil

### Defects Found

	Found	Remedied
Unreasonable temperature .....	1	1
Unsuitable closet accommodation .....	15	15
Want of cleanliness .....	6	6
Other offences .....	1	1
	Totals 23	23

### Registered Premises

Cafes and Snack Bars .....	2
Bakers and Confectioners .....	12
Plumbers .....	9
Builders .....	19
Motor and cycle repairers .....	25
Smiths .....	1
Painters .....	8
Clothing Manufacturers .....	2
Saddler .....	1
Corrugated Board Containers .....	1
Wholesale Warehouse .....	1
Lock and hinge manufacturers .....	3
Laundries .....	2
Printers .....	1
Basket Maker .....	1
Dental Mechanic .....	1
Cabinet makers and upholsterers .....	2
Mineral water manufacturers and bottlers .....	2
Ice-Cream Manufacturers .....	1
Sausage makers .....	7

Scrap Metal Dealers .....	2
Cattle Food Preparation .....	1
Demolition Contractors .....	1
Cotton weavers .....	1
Boot, shoe repairers .....	3
Gas holders .....	1
Electricians .....	8
Agricultural machinery repairers .....	2
Sawmills .....	5
Food Preparation .....	1
General Engineering .....	10
	136

## Section 110

There were 2 outworkers resident in the district employed by firms carrying on business outside this area.

## Other Matters

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories .....	Nil
Notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories .....	9

## Smoke Abatement — Clean Air Act, 1956.

The Council's policy has remained unchanged regarding smoke control areas, but action has been taken to deal with atmospheric pollution from local factories. Particular attention was given to the reduction of grit emissions from a town centre factory and the guaranteed availability of a more suitable fuel reduced this nuisance considerably.

It is still necessary to visit disused spoilbanks that continue to burn in some parts and one privately owned colliery still being operated has caused concern when spontaneous combustion occurs.

## Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

### Moveable Dwellings

There are no licensed caravan sites in the district, but in the Edge Green area, common land was again occupied on numerous occasions by caravan dwellers. They have no regard to hygienic practices and despoil the land in the area in which they site their caravans. A great deal of time was spent in dealing with these persons and it was necessary on many occasions to seek the assistance of the local police. In two instances a mechanical shovel had to be used to evict the squatters from the land.

## Infectious Disease and Disinfection

All notified cases of specified infectious diseases are visited and disinfection is carried out in the majority of cases. Enquiries are made in an effort to trace the probable source of infection, but it is very rare

that any two cases seem to be connected in anyway. Library books are disinfected and in some instances, by arrangement with the Librarian, destroyed if of small value. One hundred and thirty-nine premises were disinfected.

### Disinfestation

The number and type of infestation dealt with was as follows:—

Council Houses	67	Other Houses	72
----------------	----	--------------	----

The houses were treated for the following infestations:—

Cockroaches	31	Ants	82
Bugs	9	Bees	2
Flies	1	Spiders	4
Earwigs	1	Snails	1
Lice	1	Beetles	1
Silverfish	6		

### Rodent Control

The Council had no recognised operator for most of the year all inspections and treatments after June being shared by the cleansing foreman and the public health inspectors.

The problem I referred to last year in respect of infestations at newly erected dwellings was considerably reduced.

The refuse disposal site was treated as required, together with the sewage works and other local authority premises. Domestic premises are treated free of charge, but a charge is made for treatments carried out at business premises.

The annual report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is as follows:—

		Type of Property	
		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in district .....	8,931	54
2.	(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification .....	361	—
	(b) Number infested by (i) Rats .....	315	—
	(ii) Mice .....	46	—
3.	(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification .....	40	—
	(b) Number infested by (i) Rats .....	29	—
	(ii) Mice .....	11	—

### Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

Visits were made to all agricultural units in the district to ensure that the provisions of this Act were being complied with. Permanent and temporary workers must be provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences.

## **Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963**

The amount of time devoted to premises registered under this Act was still very limited and only 33 visits were made during the year.

### **Accidents**

Notification of all accidents occurring in registered premises are required to be notified to the Local Authority. Four such accidents were notified in 1966, but an investigation into each of these non-fatal accidents revealed that the employers were not at fault.

The following information is taken from the Annual Report made to the Minister of Labour in accordance with the provisions of Section 60 of the Act.

Class of Work Place	No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of persons in such premises
Offices .....	19 .....	180
Retail shops .....	74 .....	250
Wholesale shops, warehouses .....	1 .....	9
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens .....	15 .....	63
Fuel storage depots .....	Nil .....	Nil
<hr/> Totals 109		
<hr/> Males: 199		Females: 303
Number of general inspections carried out .....		16
Number of visits of all kinds made .....		33
Number of notices served re contraventions .....		14
Number of exemptions granted .....		Nil
Number of prosecutions .....		Nil

### **Public Conveniences**

Although the conveniences were well maintained by the attendants there was no change regarding malicious damage to fixtures, fittings and coin boxes. The cost of repair and replacement of fittings is excessive, but this problem is universal and no effective answer seems to be forthcoming.

### **Noise Abatement Act, 1960**

Several complaints regarding alleged noise nuisances were received and investigated. Most were found to be of a trivial and purely domestic nature, it was possible to secure abatement of the nuisance informally.

### **Hairdressers and Barbers**

Bye-laws to control the hygiene of hairdressing premises and equipment used were made in December, 1962 and inspections of hairdressing establishments continued during the year. Twenty inspections being made.

**Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907 — Section 86**  
**Dealers in Old Metal and Marine Store Dealers**

One person and his premises are registered with the local authority as required by this Act. His records of purchases of scrap metal have been made available to me when required.

**Food and Drugs Act**

The County Medical Officer of Health has supplied the following details of samples taken by County Sampling Officers. The County Council is the Authority responsible for the sampling of food and drugs within the district.

A total of 119 samples was obtained comprising 65 milks (of which 9 were Channel Islands milk) and 54 others as follows:—

1 pork pie	1 prodexin tablets
2 sauce	2 canned fish
1 distilled vinegar	1 dairy produce canned
1 vinegar	1 sterilised cream
1 white pepper	1 dripping
1 ice-cream	4 meat & potato pies
2 biscuits	1 golden raising powder
1 coffee, extract, dry	2 Epsom salts B.P.
1 cooking oil	1 semolina
1 plain flour	1 pudding, canned
2 pork sausages	1 butter
1 cod liver oil	1 self-raising flour
1 orange juice	4 canned meat
1 dried, milk, full cream	1 ferroodic tablets
1 dried milk, skimmed	1 panadol tablets
1 dried milk, modified	1 metatone
1 meat pies	3 ice-lollies
1 habitan cream	1 ice-cream wafers
1 compound codeine tablets B.P.	1 British Ruby wine
1 fersamal tablets	1 Australian Sherry
	1 British Sherry

I give below details of those samples on which the County Analyst gave adverse reports:—

Sample	Result of analysis	Action taken
Pork pie	Meat content of pie only 23.3% instead of the 25% recommended.	No action taken
Plain flour	Contained iron 1.2 milligrams. Vitamin B 0.16 milligrams. Nicotinic Acid 1.38 milligrams, all per hundred grammes. Minimum standards are Iron 1.65 milligrams, Vitamin B. 0.24 milligrams and Nicotinic Acid 1.6 milligrams per 100 grammes respectively.	Suppliers notified

Pork sausages	Contained preservative without declaration.	Vendor cautioned
Meat & Potato pie	Meat content only 10% whereas the required minimum is 12.5%.	Makers interviewed
„ „	Meat content only 6.5%	„
„ „	Meat content only 10.8%	„
„ „	Meat content only 3.5%	„
Canned meat (opened tin of corned beef)	Surfaces of the meat were marked with small areas of meat fibre which had been stained by sulphides of iron and tin from the metal of the can. The stained material weighed in all 0.26 grammie.	Complainant informed
Formal milk	Fat 2.95% — deficient 1.6% fat	Producer notified
Formal milk	Fat 2.85% — deficient 5% fat	„ „
Formal milk (Channel Islands)	Fat 3.70% — deficient 7.5% fat	Producer notified and further sample obtained
Formal milk (Channel Islands)	Fat 3.85% — deficient 3.7% fat	Same producer
Formal milk	Fat 2.60% — deficient 13.3% fat, and slightly low in solids-not-fat.	Producer cautioned and further sample obtained
Formal milk	Freezing point indicated the presence of 10.2% extraneous water.	Prosecution — Defendant fined £15 and costs of £9 17s. 0d. were awarded

In conclusion I must express to the Chairman and members of the Sanitary and Health Committee for their co-operation during the year to the staff of the Public Health Department for ready assistance given at all times, and to all other colleagues in the Council's service for help and friendly co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

F. BURROWS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.



Printed by  
EZRA SIDEBOOTHAM  
25-27 The Wiend,  
Wigan